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International Society of Cryptozoology

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Formation of the Society

The International Society of Cryptozoology (ISC) was officially formed at the first (founding) meeting of the Board of Directors held in Washington, D.C. on January 8-9, 1982. The meeting was hosted by the Department of Vertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, whose Chairman, George R. Zug, is an ISC Board member.

The idea of creating a cryptozoological society had been under discussion for about a year and a half. These discussions had emphasized the fact that numerous scientists around the world were involved in local cryptozoological work, but that few exchanges of information or personal contacts were occurring. It was felt that an international society dealing with cryptozoology would serve several functions: 1) it would provide a forum for the publication of cryptozoological articles, lab and field reports, and news reports; 2) it would stimulate the exchange of information between persons working in cryptozoology in different countries; 3) it would stimulate the interest of many scientists who have professional interests in cryptozoology but who have been hesitant to become involved in so controversial a topic; 4) it would represent a responsible body to which the public, the news media, and local and state agencies could turn for advice or cooperation relative to reports of unknown animals; 5) it would help legitimize cryptozoology as a sub-discipline within the biological sciences; and 6) it would serve as a depository of information available to responsible researchers, as well as a historical archive for future scholars.

The idea of the Society was received positively by many biologists informally contacted. Roy P. Mackal at The University of Chicago and J. Richard Greenwell at The University of Arizona approached numerous biologists, biological anthropologists, and marine scientists. Bernard Heuvelmans, the acknowledged "father" of cryptozoology, provided much international input from his Cen-

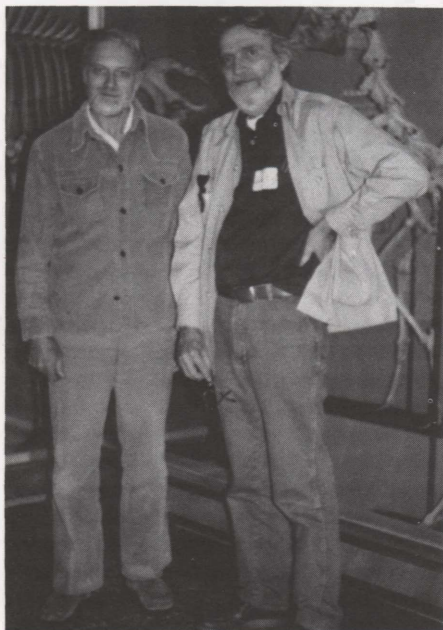


Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans, President of ISC and the acknowledged "father" of cryptozoology, at the January, 1982, ISC Founding Meeting in Washington, D.C.

ter of Cryptozoology in Le Bugue, France, and he also accepted a proposal that he be installed as President of the Society. Mackal agreed to serve as Vice President, and Greenwell as Secretary and Editor of the Society's publications.

The final Board composition was selected carefully

over a period of a year. It was important that the Board adequately represent the various biological disciplines involved in cryptozoology, as well as numerous countries in which cryptozoological events are reported. In alphabetical order, the Board members are: Dmitri Bayanov, affiliated with the Darwin Museum in Moscow, who has been involved with what the Russians refer to as "hominology," or the study of unknown bipedal



Loch Ness Meets Bigfoot.

Dr. Roy Mackal, ISC Vice President and long-time Nessie researcher (left), with Dr. Grover Krantz, ISC Board member and long-time Sasquatch researcher, at the ISC Founding Meeting at the National Museum of Natural History.

primates such as Sasquatch; Eric Buffetaut, a French paleontologist at the Laboratory of Vertebrate and Human Paleontology of the University of Paris VI; Joseph F. Gennaro, an American cell biologist at New York University; Philippe Janvier, another French paleontologist, affiliated with the National Center for Scientific Research and the University of Paris VI.

Grover S. Krantz, an American physical anthropologist at Washington State University, who has studied the Sasquatch problem intensively;

Paul H. LeBlond, a Canadian physical oceanographer at The University of British Columbia, who has investigated sightings of "Cadborosaurus"; Nikolai Spassov, a Bulgarian mammalogist at the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia; Phillip V. Tobias, a South African anatomist and paleoanthropologist at The University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg; Leigh Van Valen, an American paleobiologist at The University of Chicago, specializing in dinosaur bioecology; Forrest G. Wood, an American marine biologist at the U.S. Naval Ocean Systems Center in San Diego, specializing in marine mammals, sharks, and octopuses (see **Cryptoletters**, this issue); Zhou Guo-Xing, a Chinese paleoanthropologist at the Beijing (Peking) Natural History Museum, who has been actively involved with the Chinese "wildman" investigations; and George R. Zug, an American herpetologist at the U.S. National Museum of Natural History.

In attendance at the founding meeting were Dr. Gennaro, Mr. Greenwell, Dr. Heuvelmans, Mr. Wood, Dr. Krantz, Dr. LeBlond, Dr. Mackal, and Dr. Zug, who, as host, chaired the two-day meeting. The first order of business was to address the question of what cryptozoology actually was and what the new society would be concerned with. Considerable discussion ensued on this topic, and it was felt that all the previous terms used in the literature, such as "unknown" animals, or "extinct" or "legendary" animals, were not specific enough. Cryptozoology, it was agreed, should include the possible existence of **known** animals in areas where they were not suspected to occur (either now or in the past), as well as the unknown persistence of presumed extinct animals to the present time or to the recent past. Thus, cryptozoology, as defined by those authorities who were present, including Dr. Heuvelmans, now includes time and space parameters.

Some discussion also took

place on the animal size criteria to be used. Would only "large" animals be of interest to cryptozoology, or should small animals, such as bird or lizard species be included? It was felt that, within reason, there should not be size restrictions; exactly where to draw the line was not clear. Obviously, new protozoa would be of little interest to Society members. Drawing the line at the invertebrate/vertebrate division would not be useful, as it would eliminate such things as the presumed giant octopus.

The size question remained unresolved, but the **nature** of the animals of interest to the Society was clearly defined. What makes an animal of interest to cryptozoology is not that it is "unknown" (such animals often **are** known to native peoples), or that it is "extinct" (it would no longer exist by definition); what makes it of interest is that it is "**unexpected**." It was felt that the definition "unexpected animals" met all the necessary requirements of cryptozoological animals. It was thus agreed that the purpose of the Society was "to promote scientific inquiry, education, and communication among people interested in animals of unexpected form or size, or unexpected occurrence in time and space." This was written into the Society's Constitution.

After the long task of writing first drafts of the Constitution and the By-Laws,



Dr. Paul LeBlond, ISC Board member, at Founding Meeting.

the Officers were elected, namely Dr. Heuvelmans as President, Dr. Mackal as Vice President, and Mr. Greenwell as Secretary/Treasurer. Dr. Heuvelmans, who is in the process of compiling a series of volumes entitled *Unknown Animals of the World*, stated that it was a great honor to be elected President by the Board, a position he accepted with the understanding that, due to his workload, he would delegate most of his Presidential duties to Vice President Mackal.

Mr. Greenwell was also elected as Editor of publications, and he was requested to proceed with the printing of a Society brochure, at least two newsletters, and the journal (*Cryp-*

tozoology) during 1982. It is hoped that enough membership funds will be generated during 1982 to publish a quarterly newsletter.

Two other items of interest to members which remained unresolved were the appointment of Honorary Members to the Society (these are currently being finalized), and the creation of a Society logo depicting an appropriate cryptozoological animal. The original idea of the okapi was not actually approved by the Board (despite the January 19, 1982 article in *The New York Times*); some felt the okapi was not known well enough. Others proposed an aquatic animal, such as a giant octopus. Another Board member

proposed the Yeti. The Board will continue to deliberate the question of the Society's logo. Letters on the topic from members will be considered for publication in *The ISC Newsletter*.

Besides publications, the Board has discussed other possible activities of the Society in the future. One activity would be to support cryptozoological expeditions with modest funding, based on well-prepared proposals. Another would be to support other research activities, particularly laboratory analyses. None of these activities have been approved by the Board, and their realization would require a substantial increment in the Society's income.

Congo Expeditions Inconclusive

A scientific expedition to investigate reports of a large unknown animal in Central Africa returned to the U.S. in early December, 1981, with further evidence but no conclusive proof. Headed by Roy P. Mackal, a University of Chicago biologist (and ISC Vice President), the expedition spent a month in or near the swamp where the animals, known as Mokele-Mbembe, are said to exist. The descriptions from the natives are similar to what would be expected of a small sauropod dinosaur, such as *Camarasaurus*.

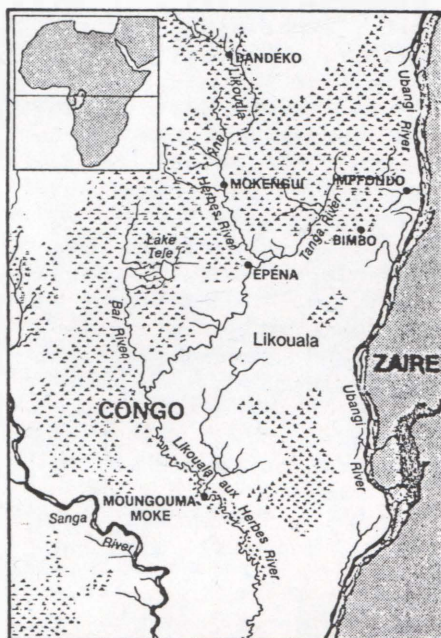
Reports of such animals date back to 1776, but have come also from European explorers in the Twentieth Century. James Powell, an American, gathered modern information while studying crocodiles in Gabon in 1976 and 1979. Powell then teamed-up with Mackal, and they conducted a preliminary expedition in 1980 to the northern swamps of the Popular Republic of the Congo, where Mackal suspected such animals could possibly have survived undetected. The northern Congo (the Likouala Region) is an almost totally unexplored, 55,000 square mile swamp. They found that such animals were indeed reported by the

natives of the Likouala. Mackal and Powell went as far as Epena on the Likouala River before turning back.

Upon returning to the U.S., Dr. Mackal made plans for another, larger expedition to reach Lake Telle, and the northern Bai River, which was then thought to be the Tebeke River (in which the Pygmies at Minganga say Mokele-Mbembe is found). Other

expedition members were J. Richard Greenwell (ISC Secretary and *The ISC Newsletter* Editor) and M. Justin Wilkinson, both affiliated with the University of Arizona, and Marie T. Womack, a California photographer. Initially, California consulting engineer Herman Regusters formed part of the expedition, but he eventually withdrew and formed his own expedition.

The Mackal expedition, which received support from the National Geographic Society, left for Africa in late October. Many days were initially lost in Brazzaville obtaining the necessary travel, photographic, collecting, and security clearances. Of indispensable aid was American Baptist missionary Eugene Thomas, who has lived in the Likouala with his wife for 26 years. He speaks both French and Lingala. After helping with bureaucratic problems in Brazzaville, Pastor Thomas flew with the team to Impfondo, 500 miles to the north, location of his Evangelical Mission. From Impfondo, the expedition, including Pastor Thomas, Pygmy helpers, three Congolese Army security personnel, and a Congolese biologist, penetrated the swamps in native dugouts.



Swamps between the Sanga and Ubangi Rivers where Mokele-Mbembe is reported.

The expedition crossed the swamps through a "canal" connecting the large Ubangi River to the Tanga River; the "canal" proved to be a narrow waterway clogged with fallen tree trunks and overhanging vegetation replete with many species of insects and snakes. The expedition proceeded down the Tanga to the Likouala River and on to the town of Epena, and then on to the villages of Djeke and Edzema. At the confluence of the Likouala and Bai Rivers, the expedition found it difficult to locate the route up the Bai due to extensive distributions of "floating prairie," making motorized navigation impossible and paddling difficult. One and one-half days of strenuous efforts brought the expedition to the village of Kinami, where a base camp was established.

Forest and savanna forays were made from Kinami, numerous biological collections were made (insects, amphibians and reptiles, birds, and small mammals), and sonar work was conducted up the Bai

River, beyond the village of Monguma Bai. Visits were made to various locations where some villagers claimed Mokele-Mbembe could be found, particularly in "deep holes" in the river. While these areas were, in fact, very deep (30-50 feet, as compared to an average river depth of 20 feet), no unidentified animals were observed or tracked by sonar. Fish, fish schools, and crocodiles were easily located by sonar.

Conflicting versions of knowledge of Mokele-Mbembe were obtained at Monguma Bai. The village chief indicated little knowledge of the subject, and exhibited a reluctance to discuss it. The Congolese on the expedition, however, obtained information from villagers that such knowledge was known to all of them, but that they would not divulge it (exact areas where Mokele-Mbembe might be readily seen) to white outsiders, particularly Americans.

The planned continuation up the Bai to the Tebeke River and across to Lake Telle was cancelled. The nor-

thern Bai was not the river the Kabonga pygmies at Minganga refer to as the Tebeke, as had been thought. The Tebeke, in which the pygmies claim Mokele-Mbembe is found, is further to the west, and could not be reached without a long overland trek from the Bai, impossible with large dugouts. Such a venture would require a new expedition coming down from Minganga in the north. The swamps between the Bai and Lake Telle, about 10 miles, were, according to the villagers at Kinami, totally impassable. The only way to reach the lake is by foot, on a hazardous and exhausting four-day trek through swamp-forest, from the village of Boa on the Likouala. With gasoline getting low, time running out, and general exhaustion, it was decided to abandon further efforts to reach Lake Telle.

Attempts to gain further information on Mokele-Mbembe were made through standard psychological and ethnographic techniques with villagers, surveillance, inspection of ground or vegetation disturbances, use of sonar equipment, and an evaluation of nutritional resources available for large herbivores. Various anecdotal reports were received from villagers. Surveillance produced one interesting result.

After completing a curve in the Likouala River (above Epena), a large wake (about 5") was observed originating from the east bank; under the circumstances, such a wake could only be caused by the sudden submersion of a large animate object. Crocodiles do not leave such wakes, and elephants and other large mammals cannot submerge, with the exception of the hippopotamus. It is believed that hippos do not occur in the Likouala swamps, and villagers on the Likouala never see them (they are found in the Ubangi, on the edge of the Likouala swamps).

An elephant hunter at Djeke took the expedition to a trail he had found many months before, which he believed could not have been made by an elephant. The

Message From the Editor

This first (Spring, 1982) issue of **The ISC Newsletter** is delayed, due to the many problems involved in starting a new society and a new publication. We will attempt to get on schedule with the second (Summer) issue.

The purpose of the **Newsletter** is to publish news items, not articles or reviews; the latter will appear in the journal **Cryptozoology**. The Editor is very dependent on others for news items. Members should not assume that new cryptozoological reports are already known to him. All items, such as newspaper reports (particularly from small or rural communities), and magazine articles, would be welcome. Old or even historical reports would also be appreciated.

Members are also invited to write letters for

publication in **The ISC Newsletter**. The Editor reserves the right to shorten the texts or clarify expressions in such letters. Letters for publication should be directed to The Editor, **The ISC Newsletter**, Box 43070, Tucson, AZ 85733. Members wishing to contribute scholarly articles or expedition reports to **Cryptozoology** should first write to The Editor, at the same address, for standardized Instructions to Contributors.

On behalf of Dr. Heuvelmans, Dr. Mackal, and the entire Board of Directors, I would like to thank all members for their interest and support.

J. Richard Greenwell
Editor
The ISC Newsletter



Mackal Expedition members (l to r: Richard Greenwell, Roy Mackal, Pastor Eugene Thomas) attempting to navigate the correct route through the confluence of the Likouala and Bai Rivers in the northern Congo.

Photograph:
Marie T. Womack

trail left a small lagoon, went through a small forest, and across one kilometer of savanna to the Likouala River. No subsequent "exit" trail from the river (typical of elephants) was found, indicating the animal remained in the river (not typical of elephants). In the immediate vicinity of the lagoon, large indentations were observed, and broken branches were visible, to a considerable height. Some lay on the ground. These were old and rotten, not recently snapped by the hunter for the benefit of the expedition. It should be noted, however, that the trail across the savanna and into the river was not observed by the expedition members. The grass had presumably straightened up again in the ensuing months.

Mokele-Mbembe is said to be a vegetarian. A large amount of vegetation is available in the swamps, and appeared to be adequate to support large, mobile herbivores. Samples of "molombo" (*Landolphia*), a gourd which the animal supposedly eats, were brought back and are currently being analyzed at The University of Arizona. The expedition was never able to penetrate the deep swamp away from the rivers for more than a few miles. There are

vast areas, many thousands of square miles, where no humans (not even the natives) live or penetrate, and it is conceivable that populations of large animals could remain there indefinitely almost totally undetected.

The expedition's return to Impfondo followed the same route: south to the Likouala, and northeast to Edzema, Djeke, Epena, and back through the "canal" to the Ubangi and Impfondo. The main problem on the return trip was the passage through the canal, during which many species of snakes were encountered. The water level had dropped 1.5 feet since the entry into the swamps, resulting in a continuous series of underwater jams on large submerged tree trunks. Eighteen straight hours of paddling and punting by all expedition members ultimately resulted in a successful passage of the 25-mile waterway.

Infections among village populations along the route followed were widespread. Drug treatments were conducted in the mornings. Some infections were acquired by expedition members, which were or are being brought under control. The conditions under which the expedition members worked could be categorized as extremely

strenuous. Day-by-day operations were physically and psychologically taxing.

Shortly after the expedition's return to the U.S., Herman and Kia Regusters also returned and announced that they had seen and photographed Mokele-Mbembe surfacing and diving in Lake Telle. They had gone on foot, from the village of Boa on the Likouala River, through the forest to the lake.

Information on Lake Telle, obtained by the Mackal expedition from French scientists in Brazzaville demonstrates that the lake is very shallow: 4-6 feet average, with a maximum depth of 9 feet, making "diving" by a large animal unlikely. Although Congolese members of the Regusters expedition were alleged to have seen the animal, subsequent investigation in the Congo has revealed that Herman and Kia Regusters were the sole witnesses to the sightings. Furthermore, the photograph of the animal is said to be heavily overexposed, showing little or no detail.

The ISC Newsletter has only received press and second-hand personal reports of the Regusters evidence. It is hoped that the Regusters team will submit its evidence to the Society for evaluation.

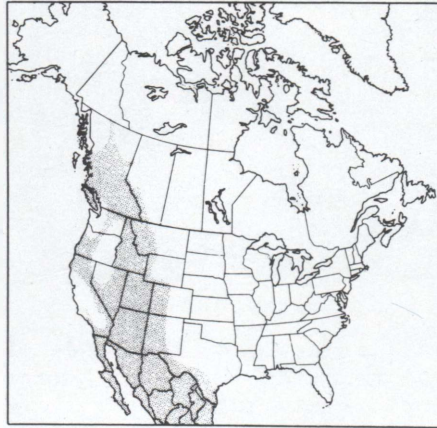
"Mystery Cats" Stalk Again

Of curious biological and/or social significance are persistent reports of known ("expected") animals observed in unexpected geographic locations. Two categories of such reports are kangaroo sightings (see **Cryptoleters**, this issue) and puma (mountain lion) sightings. "Puma sightings" have been reported in England, Scotland, and Wales for many years. An American mountain lion (*Felis concolor*) was recently caught in Scotland following numerous reports there, but the Editor has little information on the incident at this time. Puma reports have also come from many Eastern U.S. locations, the latest publicized "rash" emanating from Massachusetts. The last official puma killing in the state occurred in 1858.

Rumors and reports began in the fall of 1981 in Truro, a town characterized by sand dunes and scrub pines near the tip of Cape Cod. Seventy percent of Truro is undeveloped land, part of the Cape Cod National Seashore. Many domestic cats were killed, hogs were clawed, and actual puma sightings were reported.

William and Marsha Madeiros insist they saw a mountain lion close-up (50 feet) for several minutes on a path they were walking on toward their car. The **Boston Globe's** Peter Anderson inves-

tigated the incident and interviewed the Madeiroses. He quoted Mrs. Madeiros as follows: "It was a beautiful day towards the end of September, maybe the first week in October. My husband and I were walking on the trail to our car, which was in the National Park parking lot. My husband put his arm out to stop me and said, 'You see



Generally accepted range of American mountain lion (*Felis concolor*).

what I see?' Together we said, 'It's not a fox.' It had a very definite long, rope-like tail like the letter J. It hit the ground and went up. We figured it was about as tall as up to our knees and weighed about 60 or 80 pounds. We were frightened and froze. He was in the path and didn't see us at first. As we made some noise

he turned and we saw his face with short ears."

The animal walked along the path slowly, and then moved off into the woods. The Madeiroses were reluctant to report their sighting immediately.

"Our first thought," Mrs. Madeiros said, "was 'who would believe it.'"

Reporter Anderson also determined that the two hogs belonging to police officer David Costa had been clawed horizontally, "an indication that the attacking animal had jumped on the hogs' backs." The reason the predator did not complete its kill was presumably because a relative of Costa released four dogs upon hearing a commotion. Truro Selectman Edward Oswald, who became interested in these incidents, had state wildlife biologist James Cardoza check the area. No tracks were found to help in an identification of the attacking animal. The ground was either too wet or too sandy. Cardoza, as well as two National Park Service rangers who checked other "hog clawings," concluded, however, that a wild dog was responsible. Thomas Kane, Truro's Assistant Town Clerk, also stated that "I think it's a figment of the imagination."

The next significant sighting was reported by Truro police officer Rodney Allen on February 7, 1982. He claims that a mountain lion crossed in front of his cruiser. Following further in-

"Extinct" Bird Found

Long thought to be extinct, the yellow-fronted gardner bowerbird (*Amblyornis flavifrons*) has joined the ranks of newly-or again-found "unexpected" animals. The bird had never even been seen alive by a non-native of New Guinea, where the sighting was made by University of California physiologist Jared Diamond in January of 1981.

Only three museum specimens are known to exist: Two skins are at the American Museum of Natural History, and one is at the British Museum (Natural History), all brought to western sci-

ence by Lord Rothschild in 1895. An inspection of the American Museum specimens was the final confirmation to Diamond that he had indeed found a species "extinct" for 86 years.

Of particular interest to cryptozoologists is the fact that a dozen previous expeditions had failed to find the bird, and that Diamond, who observed 30 individuals, believes there may actually be thousands of the birds in an area of several hundred mountainous square miles of unin-

habited rain forest, located at about 4,000 feet. Of even more interest is the fact that Dr. Diamond's camera and film were "lost" when his boat capsized, so the only evidence of the find is...Dr. Diamond's anecdotal report, plus sound recordings of the bird's calls. This is a situation of unfortunate familiarity to cryptozoologists. It does not seem to represent a problem to ornithologists, however, who express no reservations about Dr. Diamond's claim.

quiries by Selectman Oswalt, National Seashore Superintendent Herb Olsen stated that his Park rangers had been actively seeking signs of a large cat. "We've got a number of staff members who are very competent in distinguishing tracks," he stated. "Our personnel have not found any cougar tracks at all...We'll continue to look for any signs and we're asking the public to report any new information or sightings to us."

But no further reports were made in Truro. Instead, police in Albany, New York, received a report from a resident who claimed to have seen a puma "dashing through backyards." Police notified the State Department of Environmental Conservation, which assigned a staff member to investigate the case. In response to an inquiry by ISC member Joseph Zarzynski (see **Cryptoletters**, this issue), Allan Hicks, a mammal specialist in the Department's

Endangered Species Unit, stated that he believed the (unidentified) witness "was mistaken, as his description was very inconsistent." Mr. Hicks added that tracks found in the area were "clearly those of a dog."

A few months earlier, and several thousand miles away, a "black panther" was reported. Here, however, a puma was a likely solution, rather than the mystery. The Arizona Game and Fish Department received a call in mid-October, 1981, from a Tucson woman who claimed that the black panther was seen by her and her husband in their back yard.

Tom Spalding, Regional Supervisor for the Fish and Game Department, hypothesized that the animal may have been a dark mountain lion. Spalding pointed out that mountain lions live in all the ranges surrounding Tucson, and that a young male, dislodged from its territory by an older cat, could enter Tucson by

following dry river beds right into residential areas.

E. Lendell Cockrum, a University of Arizona mammalogist and an associate of the Editor, admitted that observers sometimes see animals that biologists don't recognize in an area, but added that part of the problem is "a willingness to believe in beasties that go bump in the night." Dr. Cockrum, Head of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, also suggested that the new sighting could be due to a dog, a javelina, or even a house cat distorted by light, distance, and angle.

It should also be pointed out that jaguars are sometimes found in the southern tip of Arizona (about 40-50 miles south of Tucson), usually crossing the border from Mexico. Melanistic (black) jaguars cannot be entirely ruled out for "black panther" sightings in southern Arizona, which occur from time to time.

Hoax Claimed for Ape Canyon Incident

One of the classic incidents in the history of Sasquatch reports dates from 1924, when five miners reported being attacked by hairy giants which hurled boulders down at their cabin. The Ape Canyon incident was carried in the *Portland Oregonian* for July 13, 1924, which described how the miners had been prospecting a claim several miles from Spirit Lake, in the recently devastated Mount St. Helens area. Two of the miners claimed to have shot at the "apes," and one "ape" reportedly fell off a cliff. That night, the "apes" reportedly attacked the cabin with rocks, some of which came through the roof and knocked one the men unconscious.

Now, 58 years later, a retired logger has announced that he helped hoax the entire episode. Rant Mullens, 86, in an article published in the *Vancouver Columbian*, stated that he and his uncle, George Ross, were returning from a fishing trip when they decided to play their trick.



Ape Canyon prior to the 1980 Mount St. Helens volcano eruption.

"George was always playing jokes," stated Mullens, "so he and I rolled some rocks down over the edge. Then we got out of there fast. When we heard that the miners were telling hairy ape stories, we both had a good laugh. We

never told anyone the true story." Mullens also discounts other reports of Sasquatch. "I was born within 30 miles of Mount St. Helens, and have worked here almost all my life. I have never seen anything out there that

I could not explain," he said.

Four years after the Ape Canyon incident, according to Mullens, he and other Forest Service workers building a trail near what is now the Swift Reservoir decided to have more fun. Mullens carved a pair of enormous wooden feet, which were then used to leave footprints around the cars of huckleberry pickers. "When the pickers came back and saw the huge footprints, they got out of there fast," he said.

What Mullens' "confession" does not explain are the footprints found in the area prior to the Ape Canyon incident, both in 1924 and in previous years, by both Spirit Lake rangers, prospectors, and trappers. As to the miners' story of the attack, journalist John Green (author of *Sasquatch: The Apes Among Us*, Saanickton, B.C.: Hancock House) spent an evening with one of them, named Fred Beck, in the 1960s; Beck maintained his version of the events, which he had apparently repeated hundreds of times for about 60 years. Although he tended to accept the reality of the incident, Green concluded that, "as with all the old accounts, there is no prospect of being able to establish now the truth or otherwise of the basic story."

Following Mullens' announcement, the news media contacted Grover Krantz, a Washington State University physical anthropologist (and ISC Board member), who has studied the Sasquatch problem in depth. Dr. Krantz expressed a satisfaction with the Mullens announcement: "I always had my doubts about the miners' sighting," he said. "It didn't follow the regular pattern." He pointed out that Sasquatch is never reported in groups, and no hostile behaviour is ever involved in other reports. "If anything [the Mullens version] makes the Bigfoot thing a little cleaner because a very deviant story has dropped out," he added. In a subsequent conversation with *The ISC Newsletter* Editor, Dr. Krantz stated that

Neanderthal Survival Proposed

Reports of "wild men" in various parts of the Soviet Union and Outer Mongolia have been made for centuries. Over the years, several Soviet researchers, particularly B.F. Porshnev, and, more recently, ISC Board Member Dmitri Bayanov, have proposed that the reports may well represent sightings of living Neanderthals surviving in remote and environmentally hostile regions of Asia. Whether such "sub-humans" (*Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*) would be related to the Chinese "wildman," the Himalayan Yeti, or the American Sasquatch, is a subject of continuing debate.

Myra Shackley, a British archaeologist who conducted field work in Outer Mongolia in 1979, now proposes that Neanderthal bands may have survived to the present in the rugged Altai Mountains, on the edge of the Gobi Desert. Dr. Shackley presents her findings in the March, 1982, issue of *Antiquity*, a British archaeology journal (see *Recent Scientific Literature*, this issue).

In her article, Dr. Shackley reviews problems in Neanderthal taxonomy, and addresses one less well-known hypothesis: "that Neanderthal man was forced out of the best hunting grounds (and thus the archaeological record) into remote areas where small populations could have survived." Dr. Shackley goes on to state that "the idea that Neanderthal man must be extinct since modern man can be the only surviving hominid species is outmoded biological arrogance," and that "recent work in the high moun-

tain areas of southern Russia and Mongolia amply demonstrates the existence there of some form of so far unclassified hominoid. These creatures, called *Almas*, closely resemble Neanderthal man in many ways."

Although she reviews the existing Soviet literature on "relict hominoids" -- as the Russian sometimes refer to them -- Dr. Shackley also produces physical evidence, in the form of Mousterian stone tools, of unquestionable Neanderthal origin; she recovered these from surface sites during her Mongolian fieldwork. The question remains whether the tools remained undisturbed for perhaps 40,000 years, or whether they were deposited recently. Unfortunately, no stratified (and thus datable) artifacts were found, although such will be sought in future fieldwork.

Mongol herders, the only inhabitants of the region, repeatedly identified the stone tools as having been made by the *Almas*, who supposedly live in caves in the Altai Mountains. Dr. Shackley reports that, invariably, the Mongols expressed surprise at her interest in the *Almas*, which to them was "common knowledge."

In a conversation with the Editor, Dr. Shackley stated that she hopes to conduct archaeological work at higher elevations, and to perhaps visit the many caves in the uninhabited Altai range (which covers an area twice the size of France) in attempts to uncover further evidence of possible living Neanderthals.

the Ape Canyon incident has no bearing on the quality of other Sasquatch evidence.

Rene Dahinden, another long-time Sasquatch researcher, doubts the Mullens version, however. In a telephone conversation with the Editor, Mr. Dahinden pointed out that several versions of the Ape Canyon events by persons claiming responsibility have surfaced in recent

years, including the Mullens claim. Mr. Dahinden feels that Beck's testimony is more reliable than Mullens', and that the footprints found in the Ape Canyon area in 1924 and before were quite unlike the obvious Mullens fakes of 1928 and later.

Fact or fiction, the Ape Canyon incident is destined to remain an integral part of Sasquatch history and lore.

An unknown animal in the Olentangy River, at Columbus, Ohio, was recently observed by law enforcement officers, firemen and by-standers. One police officer thought it was a hippopotamus. Firefighters mentioned an otter. Jack Hanna, Director of the Columbus Zoo, who arrived on the scene, announced that all three of the zoo hippos were accounted for, "and Pete's still in his grave," referring to a recently deceased hippo.

Whatever the animal was that was first reported by a witness at 7:30 p.m. on April 4, 1982, it produced responses by city police patrol cars, a police helicopter, a

Aquatic Animal

SWAT team, a fire department rescue squad, an engine company, and television and newspaper reporters. The "Olentangy Monster," as it was billed in the **Columbus Citizen-Journal** on April 5, disappeared and did not re-surface.

No accurate description is available. A hippo and an otter were mentioned, two animals very different in size and morphology. If it was as large as a hippo, it may have been a male northern elephant seal, which can grow to a bulky 15 feet or more. Individual males are said to

Puzzles Ohioans

occasionally venture hundreds of miles inland through river systems; they would appear quite spectacular to persons who have never seen one before. Roy Mackal (ISC Vice President) in his book **Searching for Hidden Animals: An Inquiry into Zoological Mysteries** (Doubleday 1980), attributes sightings of the White River monster in Arkansas to male northern elephant seals. If an elephant seal was responsible for the riverside carnival in Ohio, the "Olentangy Monster" will probably surface again at some future time.

Recent Scientific Literature 1981 - 1982

W. H. Lehn and I. Schroeder. The Norse Merman as an Optical Phenomenon. **Nature**, Vol. 289:362-66 (January 29, 1981). The authors present evidence to support the view that mediaeval Norse sightings of the "merman" were accurate observations of natural phenomena. They believe that images of common sea mammals, "severely distorted by strong, non-uniform atmospheric refraction," fit the mediaeval descriptions well, and they present computer-generated images to support their hypothesis. (See also: W.H. Lehn. Atmospheric Refraction and Lake Monsters. **Science**, Vol. 205:183-85 [July 13, 1979]).

J. Richard Greenwell and James E. King. Attitudes of Physical Anthropologists Toward Reports of Bigfoot and Nessie. **Current Anthropology**, Vol. 22:1 (February, 1981). The authors present attitude data generated by a survey of American and Canadian physical anthropologists, primarily on Bigfoot. Only 12.8% of the respondents accept Bigfoot as real, but over

57% believe that its discovery would have a "severe" impact on science.

J. Richard Greenwell and James E. King. On the Taxonomic Status of Sasquatch: An Anthropological Consensus. **Northwest Anthropological Research Notes**, Vol. 15:1 (Spring, 1981). The authors reveal the preferred candidate for Sasquatch (Bigfoot) among professionals, based on responses to a survey of American and Canadian physical anthropologists. Of those giving a specific taxonomic response, 80% favor **Gigantopithecus**.

Barry L. Isaac. Review of **Manlike Monsters on Trial: Early Records and Modern Evidence**. **American Anthropologist**, Vol. 83:729 (September, 1981). A relatively moderate review of the book based on a University of British Columbia Sasquatch conference. The reviewer states that the book "...is exactly what is needed at the moment," and concludes that "...it will infuriate both the ardent true believer and the dogmatic debunker, but will delight the open-minded scientist

and humanist." (This volume will also be reviewed in the first issue of **Cryptozoology** -- Editor.)

Alvin Novick. Review of **Searching for Hidden Animals: An Inquiry into Zoological Mysteries**. **Bio-science**, Vol. 31 (10):775 (November, 1981). A critical review of ISC Vice President Roy P. Mackal's worldwide-cryptozoological review. While admitting that "there indeed must be" some large, undiscovered animals, the reviewer believes that "there are far more important systematic challenges to evolutionary biologists and far more important uses for large expenditures of time, money, and talent," and that cryptozoological expeditions would be a "misfortune" for science.

Myra Shackley. The Case for Neanderthal Survival: Fact, Fiction or Faction? **Antiquity**, Vol. 56 (216):31-41 (March, 1982). The author reviews recent problems of Neanderthal taxonomy, and evidence that Soviet reports of **Almas** may represent small living populations of Neanderthal. She proposes future fieldwork in Outer Mongolia, where she recently recovered Mousterian tools from surface sites. (See separate article in this issue.)

CRYPTOLETTERS

Dear Editor:

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote: "Nothing is rich but the inexhaustible wealth of Nature. She shows us only surfaces, but she is a million fathoms deep."

With the creation of the ISC, we can now funnel our resources, time, and talents into probing beyond these surfaces. Hopefully, some of the zoological mysteries of Nature can be deciphered and added to the richness of planet Earth. I look forward to working with the ISC as the ocean depths, the lakes, the mountains, the glaciers, and the tropical rain forests become our laboratories.

Congratulations on the long-awaited birth of the ISC. I am sure that even its formative years shall assist all of us involved in our own cryptozoological pursuits.

Joseph Zarzynski
Wilton, New York

Dear Editor:

As a sociologist who has spent many years studying the circulation of information about anomalous events, I applaud the formation of the International Society of Cryptozoology and its associated journal. In the past, the dissemination of information about cryptozoological events has had a kind of "hit-or-miss" character. It has been very difficult for interested researchers to know where to look to find such information. The new society and journal should provide an excellent means by which such information can be exchanged by competent researchers.

Ron Westrum
Dept. of Sociology
Eastern Michigan
University
Ypsilanti, Michigan

Dear Editor:

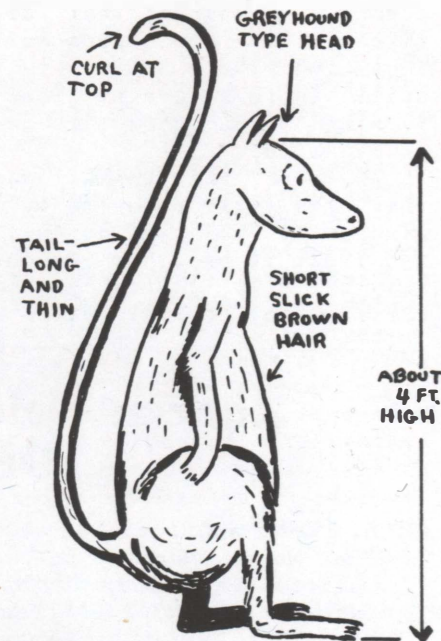
You may be interested in a possible kangaroo sighting right here in Arizona.

To the best of my knowledge, the story concerning this animal dates back to sometime between 1963 and 1965. It occurred some 50 miles south of Tucson, in Peck Canyon and near the old town of Calabasas [a few miles north of the Mexican border--Editor]. This very large canyon separates the Tumacacori Mountains to the north and the Atascosa Mountains to the south, and runs some ten miles through the range.

A friend of ours for many years, by the name of Workman, had lived some four miles up Peck Canyon since the Depression days. Mr. Workman passed away in the early 1970s. His primary interests were prospecting and mining, and he was a man of high integrity. The story, which he sent to us by mail, I do believe. My only regret is that we no longer have his original letter and drawing of the animal. My friend, Walt, had it for a number of years, but after moving as much as he does, it became lost.

As I recall his letter, Mr. Workman, while returning home one afternoon, crossed a wide sandy wash just below his house, and got stuck in deep sand with his truck. While placing branches and rocks around the rear wheels to get traction, he noticed a strange animal coming toward him from down the wash. It was about four feet in height, had a greyhound-shaped head, walked upright, and resembled a kangaroo in appearance. It also had short brown slick hair, and its tail rose straight up behind it, ending with a curl at the top. The animal made no sound, but remained standing, looking at him for a few moments before moving on across the sandy wash and into the nearby mesquite trees. I enclose my own drawing of the

animal based on my recollection of Workman's original, now lost, drawing. Mr. Workman also mentioned that its



Mr. Quinn's reconstruction of the animal reported and drawn by Mr. Workman in the early 1960s.

body was much leaner than that of a kangaroo, and its feet smaller; its tail was long and thin, and the animal carried it high above its head while walking or standing. It left no recognizable tracks in the deep, sandy bed of the wash.

He was very amazed at the sight of this strange looking animal but did not make any attempt to touch or capture it.

Workman continued working at his mining claim in the days that followed. He never saw it again. He also mentioned it to some of the ranch hands in the area, but they never saw the animal either, although they rode the range often. If only Mr. Workman had had a camera with him that afternoon back in the mid-1960s!

Ron Quinn
Tucson, Arizona

From time to time, wild kangaroos are reported in the U.S., particularly in the East and Midwest. Sometimes, these have involved escaped animals, and other times misidentification of native animals not known to the witnesses. The possibility of feral kangaroos, animals escaping and surviving for years in rural U.S. areas, should not be ruled out. However, kangaroos do not hold their tails vertically; they use them for ground support. Mr. Workman's animal sounds like it might have been a coati (*Nasua nasua*), a carnivore belonging to the same family as the racoon (*Procyonidae*). Coatis are found primarily in northern Mexico, but have been increasing in number in the southern Arizona desert in recent decades. Males are larger, but generally do not exceed two feet (plus a 20 inch tail), and older males forage individually. The tail stands erect with a curl at the top, as described by Mr. Workman, but is bushier than in Mr. Quinn's drawing. The main problem is that, unlike kangaroos, coatis are quadrupedal during locomotion, although they can stand

erect when not in motion. A drawing of a coati appears above, by the late Sandy Truett. Might Mr. Workman have seen a large coati that stood erect momentarily, giving him the impression of a kangaroo? Unfortunately, we are not aware of how familiar Mr. Workman was with coatis, but it is known that coati populations dropped significantly from the mid-1950s till the mid-1960s, the period of Mr. Workman's observation. Readers are invited to comment on the sighting and the proposed solution.

-Editor

Dear Editor:

This refers to the word "octopi" in the Society's brochure.

Many people suspect that "octopuses" is wrong, but they're not at all sure "octopi" is right. Since biologists, who should know, use one or the other with tones of equal authority, the non-specialist is hard put to decide which is preferable.

Now it is often possible to get through a day without having to refer to more than one octopus. The problem is not a crucial one. Still, it might be helpful if the question could be settled one way or the other.

To the ancient Greeks, an octopus was a **polypous**, or **polypus** as we would spell it today. **Poly-** means many and **-pus** means foot, so the word can be translated as "many-footed." The word octopus was coined around 1758. It's a little more explicit than **polypus** since **octo-** (also from the Greek) means eight, and refers to the fact that an octopus has eight feet, or arms as we now call them.

If octopus is considered a Greek word (which, originally at least, it was), then the Greek plural is **octopodes**. I'm not sure how Aristotle would have pronounced it, but today the

accent is on the second syllable and **-podes** rhymes with "road ease." If you are inclined to the classical languages, and have enough strength of character to use the word in public, you may. Indeed, the scientific name of the octopus group is *Octopoda*. Biologists often refer to members of this group as octopods.

Where does the plural form "octopi" come from? It is certainly widely used and by people who should know. Is it correct? As the founder of the Society for the Elimination of the Term Octopi from the English Language (SETOEL), my own answer is: No, it is not correct. It would be all right if octopus were a Latin word like fungus or alumnus, but it's not. It is derived from Greek. SETOEL not only maintains the plural form "octopi" is wrong, but denounces it further for having a phony air of scientific snobbery.

Since "octopi" is wrong and "octopodes" is hardly suitable for everyday use, we have left only the English plural octopuses. Is this good usage? If we can't latinize the word, is it proper to anglicize it? There is a good deal of precedent to go by here. Our language contains many foreign words that are now considered English and treated as English words. Who says diplomata for diplomas, or gymnasia for gymnasiums, or banditti for bandits? It is a growing trend. More and more people are saying cactuses instead of cacti, and aquariums rather than aquaria.

So, if you need to refer to more than one octopus, the preferred plural is octopuses. Join SETOEL!

F. G. Wood
Biosciences Dept.
U.S. Naval Ocean Systems
Center
San Diego, California

(Mr. Wood is on the ISC Board of Directors.)



Coati (*Nasua nasua*) by Sandy Truett (from *Mammals of the Southwest*, by E. Lendell Cockrum, University of Arizona Press, 1982).

CRYPTOQUOTE

"What a fantastic thing! Just imagine: a Coelacanth, still living, and all the greatest authorities in the world would be prepared to swear that all Coelacanth fishes had died out about 50 million years ago (it is estimated at 70 million today)... It was preposterous that Coelacanths had been alive all that time, unknown to modern man... Yes, everything was against it really being a Coelacanth. From every aspect it seemed impossible, the answer must be 'No.'"

"We went straight to the Museum. Miss Latimer was out for the moment, the caretaker ushered us into the inner room and there was the-- Coelacanth, yes, God! Although I had come prepared, that first sight hit me like a white-hot blast and made me feel shaky and queer; my body tingled. I stood as if stricken to stone. Yes, there was not a shadow of doubt, scale by scale, bone by bone, fin by fin, it was a true Coelacanth. It could have been one of those creatures of 200 million years ago come alive again. I forgot everything else and just looked, and then almost fearfully went close up and touched and stroked, while my wife watched in silence.

Miss Latimer came in and greeted us warmly. It was only then that speech came back, the exact words I have forgotten, but it was to tell them that it was true, it was really true, it was unquestionably a Coelacanth. Not even I could doubt any more."

J.L.B. Smith
(From *Old Fourlegs: The Story of the Coelacanth*. Longmans, Green, 1956.)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Joseph Zarzynski, a well-known Lake Champlain investigator, will be giving a one-week course at the University of Vermont during July 25-30 entitled "Mysteries of the Deep: Champ, Nessie and Other Aquatic Phenomena." Those interested may write to Vacation College, Continuing Education, Gross Mount, 411 Main St., University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05401, or call Mr. Burt Sisco at (802) 656-2085 to receive a brochure.



"NO, 50 FEET IS ABOUT AS BIG AS I CAN GO. THE PROBLEM WITH A 200 FOOT OCTOPUS IS, WHAT WOULD IT EAT?"

The ISC Newsletter

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